

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1512

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG, NL

SUBJECT: GON ASSESSMENT OF GAS SUPPLY POSITION

1. IN REPLY TO A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ON JUNE 18, MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS LUBBERS PUT PROVEN DUTCH NATURAL GAS RESERVES AT 2,045,000 MILLION CUBIC METERS. THIS, HE SAID, SHOULD GUARANTEE STEADY SUPPLIES UNTIL 20000) ALTHOUGH RELATIVE TIGHTNESS OF SUPPLIES WILL MAKE IT NECESSARY TO HALT DELIVERES TO NEW POWER STATIONS OR EXTENSIONS.
 2. PROVEN RESERVES IN GRONINGEN PROVINCE, HOLLAND' S LARGEST GAS DEPOSIT, WERE PUT AT 1,850,000 MILLION CUBIC METERS ON JANUARY 1, THOSE IN REST OF COUNTRY AT 120,000 MILLION, AND PROVEN DEPOSITS IN ELEVEN BLOCKS OF DUTCH NORTH SEA CONTINENTAL SHELF AT 75,000 MILLION, HE ADDED.
 3. MR. LUBBERS SAID HE " CERTAINLY" DID NOT RULE OUT AN INCREASE IN PROVEN NORTH SEA RESERVES AS RESULT OF FURTHER DRILLINGS, BUT THE FIRST SMALL QUANTITIES OF NORTH SEA GAS WILL NOT BE PRODUCED UNTIL 1975. OTHER DEPOSITS WILL START PRODUCTION LATER, BUT REASONABLE SUPPLIES CANNOT BE EXPECTED FROM NORTH SEA UNTIL END OF THIS DECADE, HE SAID.
- TANGUY

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